

September 10, 2001

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Amendment of Part 11)
of the Commission's) EB docket 01-66
Rules Regarding the)
Emergency Alert System)
(EAS))

To: The Commission:

I have only learned of this matter less than 4 days ago and hope that at least someone on the Commission will consider my comment. This is my first attempt to comment on a FCC matter, which I am personally involved with. I apologize for any procedural errors I may have created.

I am licensed under Part 97 as General Class operator, N2QAE, I am also a trained and registered Skywarn observer of the Mt Holly, NJ, National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast Office (FO),

I am a volunteer member of the Mt Holly Technical Committee (an unofficial, advisory group of Skywarn Spotters) comprised of both Amateur Radio operators (Hams) and non-Hams with various areas of expertise in meteorology, electronics, communications and weather reporting experience.

Comment:
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The Skywarn Spotters, nationwide, are activated by the local NWSFO as required to provide "ground truth" or actual weather conditions on the ground (below the RADAR screens). This data is necessary if the NWSFO personnel to more accurately interpret their RADAR images.

As many notification paths as possible to alert the Skywarn members in the affected warning areas of the need to observe and report to their local NWSFO should be implemented. This may be any legal method of communications, be it telephone, numeric pager, Alpha/Numeric pager, e-mail, digital analog or digital phone are possible.

Consumer grade NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) receivers may not be possible or permitted in some locations for various reasons, one of which may be insufficient NWR signal strength for message detection and user notification. For this reason, I have been trying to get the backing of the NWSFO I report to as a sponsor of the need to add the SKY (Skywarn product code) in some manner that is separate from the EAS system and cannot cause interference, yet alert the Skywarn Spotters

of impending or immediate need to report the weather events which are pre-defined as reportable conditions. This makes the NWS forecast more reliable and more accurate for the public at large.

For this reason, I support Thunder Eagle's request for the specification of a Skywarn EAS code.

[N2QAE Reply Comments to EB Docket 01-66 (Amendment of Part 11, EAS)]

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1. N2QAE agrees with the Thunder Eagle suggestion to add a Skywarn EAS code.

2. N2QAE agrees disagrees with the SBE in that the Skywarn EAS code in delaying action on this item. If any code should be considered as important in minimizing death and destruction or other harm to the general public, notifying the Skywarn Spotters should be high on the list of any code changes being considered in this matter.

[Summary]

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3. N2QAE request that the Commission make the necessary amendments to Part 11 with the above thoughts in mind. N2QAE also is convinced that the event codes be mandatory but allow for smarter EAS decoders/encoders in the future with programmable responses to both old and new codes.

N2QAE

/s Arthur J Martin
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September 9, 2001

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